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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1949 - 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Construction

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 21 Jun 1950

WHERE
PUBLISHED USSR

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE
PUBLISHED 24 Mar - 18 Apr 1950

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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USSR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
FAIL TO MEET PLANS

LABOR PRODUCTIVITY LOW -- Pravda, No 102, 12 Apr 50

Labor productivity in a number of construction projects of the Ministry of Construction of Machine-Building Enterprises was considerably below norm in 1949, and the construction periods were 100-150 percent above norm. This was caused by poor utilization of existing equipment.

For example, stone crushers in most of the construction projects have been operating on an average of 600-650 hours per year, or 2 hours a day, whereas they should operate at least 10-12 hours per 24-hour period. In other words, the machinery has been either completely idle or has been used spasmodically. It is not surprising that many construction projects, equipped with the latest technical devices, are lagging in their work.

LENINGRAD WORK LAGGING -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 77, 31 Mar 50

One of the largest Leningrad construction trusts under the Ministry of Construction of Machine-Building Enterprises has been very slow in introducing industrial construction methods. The construction of 18 apartment houses for workers of the Plant imeni Lenin, which was begun about 6 months ago, has made no progress. There are plenty of machines and mechanical devices on the construction site. However, the mechanization plan has not been properly worked out and the machinery is more often idle than in operation.

There is no competent technical supervision of this large construction project. The construction experts prefer to sit around in offices of the trust and its administrations, and the construction work is supervised by workers who often lack the necessary know-how. One of the new houses, built for the Plant imeni Lenin at the end of 1949, had to be rejected because of poor construction. Another house built in 1949 for the Plant imeni Lepse was also found unfit for occupancy.

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The trust has continuously failed to meet its plans. In 1949, the plan provided for the completion of 16,000 square meters of new housing; however, only 9,500 square meters were completed with great difficulty. The 1950 plan provides for 17,000 square meters of housing. It is doubtful whether this goal will be reached. Kuz'mich, manager of the trust, states that there is a shortage of workers; dormitory facilities are inadequate and the workers have to live a long distance from their place of work. Another reason for slow production is the lack of two essential plants: a slag-block plant and a reinforced-concrete plant. The trust also has no brick plant of its own, and no tower cranes, which are necessary in constructing large buildings.

Leningradskaya Pravda, No 91, 16 Apr 50

Construction organizations of Leningrad during the first quarter of 1950, failed to fulfill the plan both for industrial and for housing construction.

HOUSING IN BELORUSSIA BELOW PLAN -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 61, 24 Mar 50

Housing construction in Belorussia has made progress in 1950, but it is still below plan. Due to the inefficient operation of some construction organizations, Belorussians have failed to receive a large number of new houses. Several important organizations, including "Glavminskstroy," "Avtopromstroy," and "Traktorostroy," failed to meet the 1949 plan for housing construction. A number of construction organizations of the Republic continue to squander their funds and materials, fail to adhere to a strict working schedule, and do not make sufficient use of mechanization and progressive labor methods. The Gomel' Oblast Construction Trust, in spite of exceeding the 1949 plan, failed to complete the construction of a number of houses because materials and labor forces had been squandered. The Vitebsk Oblast Trust also failed to complete the plan.

Local soviets have received about 8 million rubles in the first quarter 1950 for housing construction. Until now, these funds have been poorly managed and construction is progressing slowly. By 1 March, only 44.6 percent of the first-quarter plan had been completed. In Minsk Oblast, only 8.3 percent of the quarter plan for housing construction had been completed, and in Gomel' Oblast, 29 percent.

WORK IN LATVIA SLOW -- Sovetskaya Latvija, No 75, 29 Mar 50

Since the war, 161,000 square meters of housing have been reconstructed in Riga. However, reconstruction and new housing construction is still inadequate. For example, several large enterprises such as the "VEF" Plant, the railroad-car building plant, and a number of textile factories, are extremely slow in housing reconstruction.

Sovetskaya Latvija, No 92, 18 Apr 50

A number of Latvian ministries and departments do not provide their construction projects with plans and estimates at the proper time. The 1950 plans should have been turned over to the new construction projects not later than 1 October of the preceding year. However, as of 1 April 1950, ten important projects included in the general construction plan for 1950, had not received any approved plans and estimates. These include the "Uzvara" Confectionery Factory, the glass jar plant, the Ludza and Rezekne flax mills of the Ministry of Light Industry Latvian SSR, and others. Failure to provide the construction projects with technological documents will make it impossible to fulfill the capital construction plans.

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KAZAKHSTAN FAILS TO MEET PLANS -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 62, 24 Mar 50

Despite an increase in housing construction during 1949, the Kazakh SSR as a whole completed only 89 percent of the year plan. This makes it extremely doubtful whether the Five-Year Plan for housing construction in the Kazakh SSR will be fulfilled.

Housing construction is a matter of political importance, and it is just as important as the construction of new industrial enterprises. However, many responsible officials fail to give it the necessary attention. For example, the "Kazakademstroy" Trust (chief, Khendrikov) completed only 52 percent of the 1949 construction plan. The situation was even worse with regard to housing construction. Only 825 square meters of housing were completed instead of 4,447 square meters according to plan.

Enterprises of the meat and dairy industry are also very slow in meeting construction quotas and have continuously failed to fulfill state plans. A similar situation exists in light industry enterprises. The "Kazlegprommontazhstroy" (Kazakh Construction and Assembly of Light Industry Enterprises) Trust started building an apartment house for workers of the Alma-Ata Cloth Factory over 4 years ago and it has not yet been completed.

The Ministry of Communal Economy has also failed to meet the housing construction plan and has given very little aid to oblast construction and repair offices. In Karaganda, for instance, the 1949 plan provided for the construction of several multistoried houses; however, not one square meter of housing was actually built.

A great deal of housing construction is planned for 1950. In Alma-Ata alone, over 34 million rubles have been allocated for new housing construction. Extensive construction plans have also been made for Karaganda, Akmolinsk, and other cities and industrial centers.

One of the leading construction trusts in Kazakhstan is the "Pribalkhashstroy" Trust, which has introduced industrial labor methods and has exceeded the 1949 plan for housing construction. Metallurgical workers of Balkhash and miners of Kounrad have received thousands of square meters of living area. Year-round construction is being done in Balkhash, where local building materials are used to a large extent, thus saving large quantities of timber. All construction projects of the republic should follow the example of the "Pribalkhashstroy" Trust.

CONSTRUCTION IN AZERBAIDZHAN UNSATISFACTORY -- Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 73, 11 Apr 50

The current Five-Year Plan for capital construction in Azerbaydzhan includes construction of the Mingechar hydroelectric power plant, the Dashkesan Mine (iron ore), the Sumgait plant units, workers' settlements of "Kirovabadneft" and "Buzovnyneft", and apartment houses in Baku. In 1949, the volume of capital construction was twice as high as in 1947. A great increase in the allocation of funds is planned in 1950 for the construction of industrial enterprises, cultural institutions, and other important buildings.

The new plan requires general mechanization of manual labor, use of prefabricated parts in construction, and conversion to assembly-line methods. However, many builders are still operating with old-fashioned methods, giving little attention to labor organization and the utilization of modern equipment. As a result, construction continues to be a bottleneck which greatly slows down the development of petroleum industry, as well as the entire economy of the

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Republic. It is well known that construction organizations of Azerbaydzhan completed the year 1949 in a very unsatisfactory manner. There is still a serious lag in housing construction. The 1949 plan provided for 103,400 square meters of new housing, whereas only 52,800 square meters were actually completed: petroleum workers received only 15,320 square meters of living area instead of 26,780 square meters.

Construction work has not improved in 1950. The first-quarter plan was not met by some of the largest construction organizations, including "Zakpromstroy," Azerbaydzhan Territorial Administration of "Glavzapadneftestroy," "Dashkesanstroy," and others. Serious shortcomings have been discovered in the work of construction projects. Machinery is being used inadequately. During March, excavators on construction sites of "Zakpromstroy" Trust were idle more than 1,000 hours. The trust management has taken no steps to improve the situation, and excavators and other machines continue to be idle in April.

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